



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : U.S. Serial Number 10/714,406  
Applicant : Ruediger EBELING et al  
Filed : November 17, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 2674  
Examiner :

Docket No. : 2920-117  
Customer No. : 06449  
Confirmation No. : 2022

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Director of the United States Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant submits herewith information that the Office may wish to consider in examination of the subject application. Materials submitted for consideration are listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

The relevance of any foreign-language reference for which an English-language translation is not provided is as follows.

DE 198 39 000 A1 refers to a method for monitoring filling levels as well as a device for measuring and displaying filling levels. The filling level of a liquid medium in a tank, a container or a cistern made of plastics or glass is acquired by means of a battery-powered measuring in odd hourly intervals from outside through a tank wall of the tank, container or cistern. For this purpose at least two independent sensors are mounted on the outer surface of the tank wall which produce an electronic measuring signal with the medium depending on the covering level of an associated sensor

surface. The latter is processed to a filling level signal and transmitted by radio via a radio line to an evaluating and display unit. The radio signal is a serially or parallelly coded data word which besides information about the filling level may also contain information about the battery condition, the condition of the sensors or a system codification.

DE 198 39 000 A1 describes a device for the optical representation of information on the actual operating state of a liquid system. Not least due to its constructional design this device has proved to be relatively disadvantageous as a whole. This device is particularly neither intended nor suitable for setting parameters for a set operating state of the liquid system. Furthermore, only a single operating state of the container to be monitored can be displayed by means of this device, that is whether the container to be monitored is completely or partly filled or completely emptied. The display device is, therefore, very simple in its design. For the optical representation of the information in electronic form only sensors in the form of LEOs are provided, which are arranged one behind the other or one below the other in the form of bars or columns. Therefore, also the graphical reproducibility is restricted to a linearly arranged column of sensors in the form of LEOs. It is, therefore, not at all possible to transmit written information.

DE 198 42 286 C1 refers to a device and method for displaying pictographs. It suggests a device for displaying pictographs in a vehicle consisting of a control unit and a display, in particular an LC display, the control unit controlling the display. The device

is characterized in that the display is divided into symbol fields arranged in a row, the control unit simultaneously displaying only one pictograph in each symbol field. The device is further characterized in that the control unit displays each pictograph to be displayed newly in the symbol fields arranged in a row always in a certain symbol field and displaces the pictographs already displayed about one symbol field without changing their order, and in that an operating element is provided by means of which a coherent cutout from the pictographs arranged in a row can be displayed in the symbol fields of the display, when more pictographs have to be displayed as symbol fields are available on the display. The method contains proposals for operating this device.

DE 198 35 920 C2 describes an operating and monitoring apparatus for heating installations with at least one display device arranged in a control panel including at least one text line for displaying operating and/or setting parameters of the heating installation in plain text, characterized in that at least one particularly marked operating element is provided for immediately displaying the languages which can be selected for setting the language of the plain text display in its respective national language and for setting one of the languages as display language for the plan text display.

DE 1 98 05 133 A 1 describes an electronic display and/or operating device with a display and status indicator fields etc., one status indicator field indicating the operating or non-operating status in a yes/no function.

DE 696 21 374 T2 refers to transparent heating panels and a method for preparing and manufacturing the same. It particularly refers to transparent heating

panels, which can be used for window parts, and especially transparent heating panels, which can be selected for setting the language of the plain text display in its respective national language and for setting one for the languages as display language for the plain text display.

DE 199 19 155 A1 refers to a device for receiving absorbable material, especially waste, mud, faeces or the like with a preferably cylindrical container with a first tank for the absorbed material and a second tank for a flushing agent; a receiving frame for carrying a suction tube hasp with a suction tube being connected to the first tank and a high-pressure tube hasp with a high-pressure tube being connected to the second tank; and an electronic device together with a measuring device for measuring the filling levels in the first and second tank; a control means for controlling the functional components of the device, particularly the absorbing and flushing function; and an operating device, particularly for the visual display of measured values and control parameters; a bus system, preferably a CAN bus, being provided for connecting the operating device at different locations of the device.

DE 198 05 133 A1 describes an electronic display and/or operating device with a display and status indicator fields etc., one status indicator field indicating the operating or non-operating status in a yes/no function.

DE 696 21 374T2 refers to transparent heating panels and a method for preparing and manufacturing the same. It particularly refers to transparent heating panels, which can be used for window parts, and especially transparent heating panels,

which can be used for liquid crystal displays, display cases of refrigerators and freezers and defrosters of automobiles, and a method for preparing the same.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Murray", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

Robert B. Murray

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 22,980

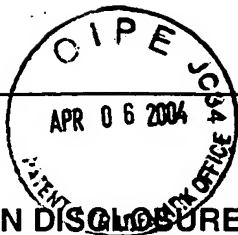
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, p.c.

Suite 800, 1425 K Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20005

Telephone: (202)783-6040

RBM/cb



# **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

*Complete if Known*

Application Number	10/714,406
Filing Date	November 17, 2003
First Named Inventor	EBELING et al
Group Art Unit	2674
Examiner Name	

Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	2920-117
-------	---	----	---	------------------------	----------

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee of Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup> Code	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
	1.	DE	198 39 000	A1	Dickert Electronic GmbH	3/9/00	
	2.	DE	198 42 286	C1	Mannesmann VDO AG	11/18/99	
	3.	DE	198 35 920	C2	Viessmann Werke GmbH & Co.	8/16/01	
	4.	DE	199 19 155	A1	FFG Flensburger Fahrzeugbau GmbH	11/2/00	
	5.	DE	198 05 133	A1	Amazonen-Werke H. Dreyer GmbH & Co KG	8/12/99	
	6.	DE	696 21 374	T2	Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.	9/26/02	

Examiner  
Signature

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark h